Committee on Welfare of Minorities

3457. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Committee in his Ministry for monitoring the implementation of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the number of persons who have been provided with employment during the past three years under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no Committee in the Ministry of Finance for the stated purpose. Part of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities relates to the functioning of the commercial banks. Accordingly the public sector banks are required to take various steps to facilitate adequate flow of credit to minority communities which, *inter alia*, includes setting up of special cells in each bank, reviewing regularly the flow of credit to minority communities and progress made in this regard at the meetings of the District Consultative Committees and State Level Bankers Committees, giving wide publicity about various anti-poverty programme of the Government wherever there is a large concentration of minority communities. In addition, the Banks/ Banking Service Recruitment Boards have been advised to take various measures for increasing the employability of candidates belonging to Minority Communities. The measures include providing Pre-recruitment training to the candidates belonging to Minority Communities, inclusion of members belonging to these communities, on the Boards/Selection Committees constituted for recruitment etc. Moreover, the recruitment rules are so framed that the selection is based on merit, providing equality of apportunity so that no discrimination is made against any section of the society. The data reporting system does not generate statistics about employment provided to different religious communities in public services.

Death of businessman during interrogation

3458. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a businessman being interrogated at the office of Enforcement Directorate at Lok Nayak Bhavan committed suicide in the last week of February, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other businessmen arrested with him managed to escape; and

(d) if so, whether any inquiry into this incident has been held and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Shri Sawinder Singh @ Surender Singh was being interrogated at the office of the Directorate of Enforcement at Lok Nayak Bhawan. He jumped from the 6th Floor office of the Directorate in the early hours of 29.2.92 He was taken to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi. The doctors on duty declared Shri Sawinder Singh "brought dead".

(c) No person had been arrested in this case. Shri Sawinder Singh, his two brothers and some of their employees had been summoned to appear under Section 40 of FERA, 1973.

(d) On the directions of the Supreme Court, the District and Sessions Judge, Delhi has appointed a Senior Additional District and Sessions Judge, Delhi to hold an enquiry into the circumstances of Shri Sawinder Singh's death.